

Area-Wide Soil Contamination Project Sampling Guidance

Summary of Sampling Guidance

The Department of Ecology is in the process of preparing a series of three sampling guidance documents for area-wide arsenic and lead soil contamination as part of the State's Area-Wide Soil Contamination Project. Separate guidance documents are being prepared for residential properties, child-use areas, and commercial developments. The guidance are intended for use by targeted stakeholder groups interested in reducing exposure to arsenic and lead soil contamination.

The objectives and scope of the guidance documents were developed in a series of meetings of the Area-wide Soil Contamination Task Force Nature and Extent Workgroup. Industry, real estate, local and state government representatives participated in the work group. Guidance document details were developed by a sampling guidance design subgroup of the Nature and Extent Workgroup that consisted of the project contractor and various Ecology staff. The three guidance documents developed by the subgroup are:

- › *Residential Property Arsenic and Lead Soil Sampling Guidance*
- › *Child Use Area Arsenic and Lead Soil Sampling Guidance*
- › *Commercial Property Development Arsenic and Lead Soil Sampling Guidance (in preparation)*

The residential property guidance is targeted for use by homeowners, tenants and landlords who are interested in identifying ways to reduce exposure to arsenic and lead in soil at their home. Similarly, the child use area guidance is targeted for use by businesses and local governments, and the commercial property development guidance is targeted for use by local building departments.

Each guidance document presents a consistent set of soil sampling protocols in a three-step process:

1. Planning the sampling – deciding where and how to collect samples
2. Actual sample collection procedures to be followed by the stakeholder
3. Getting the sample analyzed.

The ultimate objective of the guidance is to produce representative soil sampling data of sufficient quality to help manage exposure to arsenic and lead soil contamination during property use. The guidance documents do not represent a standard protocol to meet MTCA remedial action or real estate property transfer requirements. These programs typically have different data objectives that may result in additional sampling and analysis requirements beyond those presented in these Area-Wide Soil Contamination Project guidance documents.